



June 15, 1999

Ms. Felicia Marcus
Region IX Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

DATE	6-28-99	
ACTION (Y)	COPIED (Y)	
RA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RA
BRA		DRA
AIR		AIR
OCGR		OCGR
ORC		ORC
OSPEI		OSPEI
PMD		PMD
SFUND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SFUND
WASTE		WASTE
WATER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WATER
X-MEDIA		X-MEDIA

Dear Administrator Marcus:

Perchlorate Contamination of the Colorado River

ACWA's mission is to assist its members in promoting the development, management and reasonable beneficial use of good quality water at the lowest practical cost in an environmentally balanced manner.

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) includes 450 public water agencies in California. Our members serve over 90% of the delivered water in California for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses. The Colorado River plays a major role in meeting these water supply demands.

ACWA has been actively tracking the issue of perchlorate contamination in the Colorado River. Many of ACWA's member agencies, including some of the largest water suppliers in the state, have been impacted by the perchlorate contamination emanating from the Las Vegas Wash and flowing into Lake Mead. The recent addition of perchlorate to the unregulated contaminant monitoring list by the California Department of Health Services will undoubtedly reveal even more contamination than previously known.

ACWA commends the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (Region IX) for its efforts to address the perchlorate contamination problem in the Colorado River. Region IX, along with the State of Nevada and many California water utilities, have committed considerable resources to investigating the source of contamination, clean-up of the contamination, health effects of perchlorate, analytical methods, and drinking water treatment technologies. We understand that Region IX and the State of Nevada would like to see immediate action taken to intercept groundwater flows beneath the Kerr-McGee property before it reaches the Las Vegas Wash and to intercept a surface water flow into the Las Vegas Wash that was recently discovered. ACWA supports immediate action in these areas to reduce further perchlorate contamination.

Recent meetings between Region IX staff and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California staff stimulated ideas on additional proactive measures that could be implemented. As a result, ACWA believes the following additional actions could greatly improve the understanding of perchlorate contamination in the Colorado River:

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- 1) A comprehensive assessment (by the U.S. Geological Survey) of the time needed for the Colorado River system to "flush itself out" once the source of perchlorate has been eliminated; and
- 2) Additional monitoring for perchlorate for the purpose of tracking the plume and assessing clean-up efforts.

These tools will provide a better understanding of how the clean-up efforts *should* improve conditions and real results to assess the clean-up measures. We recommend that these items be placed high Region IX's "priority" list for the perchlorate assessment.

ACWA and affected members would be more than happy to discuss these issues in more detail if needed. If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss things further, please feel free to contact Krista Clark at 916-441-4545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Dan Smith
Manager of Regulatory Affairs

cc: Mark Beuhler, MWD of SC
Bob Martin, East Valley WD